

Price riots hit Caracas

CARACAS (UPI) — Looters seized furniture and appliances from stores in the capital yesterday, leaving at least 20 dead in Venezuela in 30 years. Police estimated 25 people were killed in the Caracas area, untold numbers were injured and more than 1,000 arrested. The looting and rioting, triggered by price increases, began Monday and spread to at least seven cities and towns. It continued into early Tuesday in some parts of Caracas, where streets waisted as authorities put out fires and battled looters in streets filled with shattered glass. At midday, the capital's downtown district was under virtual martial law with troops patrolling the streets. Some looting persisted on the outskirts. Independent reports estimated damage nationwide to be in the millions of dollars. On some Caracas streets, virtually every store was looted. "It is a popular uprising. There are riots everywhere. They are all furious," said metropolitan police inspector Jose Luis Montilla, who commanded a unit armed with shotguns.

Jordan Times

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King thanks Senate speaker



AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable of thanks to Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, in reply to a congratulatory cable the Senate speaker sent to the King on the formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

King Hussein stressed that "the blessed step of establishing the council and its national meanings arise from the meanings and principles on which Jordan is based."

These meanings, King Hussein noted, "are derived from the Great Arab Revolt, which was launched for the best interests of Arabs and for uniting the Arab Nation."

Dali leaves on upbeat note on cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — South Yemen Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali left Amman Tuesday after concluding talks here on his country's desire to launch cooperation with Jordan in various fields.

In a departure statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dali said his talks with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and other officials paved the way for agreement on a host of matters of interest to the two countries. Dali expressed happiness over the outcome of the visit and said he was optimistic about future cooperation with Jordan.

Dali said his country appreciates Jordan's endeavours to enhance solidarity among Arab countries and reiterated South Yemen's support for the newly created Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which groups North

Yemen, Iraq, Egypt and Jordan.

Dali described the new group as a very practical step towards mobilising Arab potential.

During his four-day visit to Jordan, Dali was received in audience by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to whom he delivered a message to His Majesty King Hussein from the South Yemeni president. He held talks with Rifai and Jordanian ministers on cooperation in various fields. Dali also toured a number of institutions, including the pharmaceutical plants in Salt.

In Damascus, Dali had talks with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa later Tuesday on developments in the Arab World.

Diplomats quoted by Reuters said Dali was expected to discuss the ACC.

23 children injured in Israeli air raid

AINAB, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli jets wounded 23 children and two teachers in raids on a Druze mountain village and a Palestinian camp in Lebanon Tuesday, witnesses and hospital sources quoted by Reuter said.

Two adults were also reported killed and another man wounded in the raids on the village of Ainab and the Palestinian camp in a nearby valley 20 kilometres southeast of Beirut.

An Israeli army spokesman claimed the planes destroyed a headquarters of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) used for attacks against Israel.

Witnesses at Ainab told Reuters the children, aged between five and 12 years, were wounded mainly by shrapnel and flying glass when the jets dropped three bombs near their elementary school.

Sources at several hospitals in the area said 10 children were in serious condition. Only three had been released from hospital after

treatment.

One bomb blasted a crater 10 metres wide and three metres deep near the school, where pools of blood lay on classroom floors. Desks were overturned and books scattered by the explosion.

Bombs slammed into the village of 2,000 people. Shop shutters were blasted off their hinges and windows broken. Smoke rose from burning cars in the streets.

Sources in Beirut told Reuters the Israeli jets also hit an office of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) in the nearby village of Baisour.

A DFPL official said two of its members were killed in the attack.

The air strike coincided with the 20th anniversary of the estab-

lishment of the DFPL which lost three fighters in a confrontation with Israeli-affiliated militiamen in South Lebanon last Thursday.

Police said six fighter-bombers took part in the raid. Flying in across the Mediterranean sky, they staged at least three bombing and rocketing runs within 30 minutes on the targets, according to the police.

Palestinian as well as Lebanese militia gunners fired anti-aircraft guns at the raiding planes from positions in the mountains and around Beirut international airport, but no hits were reported, a police spokesman said.

Air traffic was brought to a standstill at Lebanon's only civil aviation facility during the raid. Israel's third on Lebanon this year, the spokesman said.

At least 128 people were killed and 356 wounded in 25 Israeli air raids on Lebanon last year.

A DFPL statement issued in Beirut said: "Israel's raids on civilians and Lebanese citizens as well as Palestinian bases, reaffirms that Zionist terrorism, backed by its ally the United States, has not stopped."

Kadoumi added: "Individuals or groups might undertake these kinds of (guerrilla) operations, but the PLO does not."

In a separate interview in Iraq with the Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra, Salah Khalaf, deputy to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said the European Community had failed to react positively enough to the recent Palestinian peace overtures.

The United States said Monday

PLO disavows responsibility for actions by splinter groups

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), in remarks published Tuesday, said it could not be expected to control the actions of its splinter groups and also criticised as weak the European response to its peace overtures.

"The PLO is not prepared to condemn operations which any Palestinian organisation or faction undertakes," PLO foreign affairs spokesman Farouq Kadoumi was quoted as saying by the Asharq Al Awsat newspaper.

Kadoumi was apparently referring to a reported attempt last

week to infiltrate Israel by members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The United States said the PLO should be held responsible for the action.

Kadoumi added: "Individuals or groups might undertake these kinds of (guerrilla) operations, but the PLO does not."

In a separate interview in Iraq with the Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra, Salah Khalaf, deputy to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, said the European Community had failed to react positively enough to the recent Palestinian peace overtures.

The United States said Monday

Palestinians boycott Jerusalem elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinians in Jerusalem boycotted Israeli municipal elections and staged a general strike Tuesday and a Palestinian was shot and killed in an occupied West Bank village.

An anonymous caller belonging to a group claiming to hold captive a missing Israeli paratrooper threatened Tuesday to kill the soldier unless Israel releases 1,500 Palestinian prisoners.

In the occupied West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, a general strike called by underground leaders halted all transportation and closed businesses.

The strike was called in boycott of Tuesday's municipal elections by Arab Jerusalem's 70,000 Arab voters.

Because of the elections in 147 cities and counties, the Israeli army ordered the occupied territories sealed from

midnight Monday to 10 p.m. Protests erupted in Gaza City, the nearby Shati and Jabalya refugee camps and the West Bank town of Tulkarem. Troops shot and wounded four Palestinians in the clashes, including a 15-year-old boy who was hit in the chest, thigh and hand, doctors said.

Also Tuesday, the army announced troopers killed a 25-year-old Palestinian during a clash overnight in the West Bank village of Deir Abzey. Ramallah hospital officials said Atwa Lutfi Darwarr was dead on arrival with a bullet wound to the head.

A curfew remained in effect for the fifth day Tuesday in the West Bank town of Nablus and troops conducted house-to-house searches for suspects in the killing of an Israeli soldier in the city's open-air market Friday.

The caller, who spoke Hebrew with an Arab accent, read from a prepared statement and refused to answer questions. He hung up after about 15 seconds and did not

name the group he claimed to represent.

On Monday, a similar call to the Agence France Presse news agency said a group called the Palestinian Arab Army was holding the soldier. The caller said the group was not linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The Palestinian Arab Army was not publicly known before Monday's call. The Israeli commander in the West Bank, Amram Mitzna told the Haaretz daily it has been operating since the start of the Palestinian uprising, but later said on radio nothing was known of the group.

On Israel Radio, Mitzna said the army was treating Tuesday seriously but did not plan to comply with the demand to release prisoners.

The caller did not say which prisoners he was demanding freedom for, but army figures

indicate as many as 9,000 Palestinians have been jailed in connection with the uprising.

Sassportas' disappearance Feb. 16 has prompted concern throughout Israel, with thousands participating in searches and the media engaging in extensive coverage. Proof that he was kidnapped by a Palestinian group is likely to undermine current tentative shifts in public opinion towards negotiations with the PLO.

Sassportas was last seen near Ashkelon, after leaving his base in southern Israel to hitch a ride home to Ashdod. He was wearing his uniform and armed with an M-16 assault rifle. The area is close to the Gaza Strip.

Army officials said Monday

that a similar claim of responsibility was received five days earlier from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It was withheld by authorities at the time.

In a newspaper interview, he said Sassportas was apparently an apostate, a heretic, but neither Khomeini nor any other Muslim authority could sentence him to death.

The Press Trust of India news agency said demonstrators in India fought with police in the northern city of Srinagar.

In Bombay, Rushdie's birth-

place, the author is hiding under police guard, a leader of the Muslim community said the death call was a crime against God.

Expatriates conference to be held in July

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The fifth Jordanian expatriates conference will be held in Amman during July 1989, according to a recent statement here.

The statement said the government has entrusted the conference's special committees to embark on preparations for the coming meetings.

Last July's conference was attended by some 800 delegates representing Jordanian expatriates in Arab, Asian and American countries.

Army rejects Mahdi proposals

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese military chiefs put their troops on full alert Tuesday and rejected attempts by Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi to assert that all the contents of its memorandum dated Feb. 20, 1989, addressed to the supreme commander of the armed forces, head of state Ahmed Ali Al Mirghani, and the chairman of the national defence council, (Mahdi), must be carried out, the armed forces general command said in a statement. But the statement added that the 60,000-strong army remained committed to democracy and the constitution. Sudan's generals last week gave Mahdi seven days to institute political reforms and either spend more money on defence or negotiate an end to the civil war in the south. Their ultimatum expired Monday. Defence sources said troops throughout the country and in Khartoum had been placed on full alert. "We gave the government an ultimatum to reply to our demands. It replied, and we rejected its reply. Now we will have to come up with a satisfactory answer," one source said.



Jordan honours pioneers of voluntary work in Kingdom

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday presents an award to Dr. Abdul-Karim Khatib, chairman of the General Union of Voluntary Societies, in recognition of his leading

role in voluntary work in Jordan. The award, one among several presented Tuesday, were conferred, on pioneers of voluntary work by His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

harm to the country and citizens.

The country, the Crown Prince added, is in need of a national voluntary service which, apart from supervising voluntary and social services, can also encourage the tendency of productivity and eliminate excessive consumption and other negative aspects.

Jordan, the Regent, noted, gives due attention to social and voluntary work which can contribute to the social and economic development. He urged those involved in social and voluntary work in the country to help the society develop and foster the spirit of productivity in the community and help eliminate negative patterns which tend to bring

harm to the country and citizens.

The proposed conference should be attended by all concerned parties including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, said the team's leader, Hans-Jurgen Wischniewski from West Germany, upon his arrival with the delegation at the start of a Middle East tour.

The fact-finding tour organised by Socialist International will take the group to Syria, Israel, the occupied West Bank and Gaza for discussions on the Middle East situation.

Wischniewski said in the state-

ment carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the tour would provide the group with views on the peace process and ways in which Socialist International could contribute towards convening an international peace conference.

He said the visit to Jordan assumes a special importance in view of the Kingdom's significant position and its key role in any peace process.

The group met in Tunis with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Wischniewski said. He described the meeting as positive and important.

He said the team would meet with people living in the occupied territories and submit a report on their findings to a Socialist International meeting in Vienna next week.

The Vienna meeting will name a date for an enlarged meeting for

Socialist mission arrives, supports peace conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — A six-member team from Socialist International arrived in Amman Tuesday and announced the group's support for the call for an international conference to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and establish peace in the Middle East.

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Jordanian officials will discuss with the team the Middle East question. The team leaves for Damascus Thursday.

In a related development, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Japan was quoted by Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) as welcoming the creation of the ACC.

Kuwaiti Secretary-General Abdullah Hijazi also addressed the gathering on the significance of the ACC and said the creation of the council represents a new era in Arab history.

In an interview with the MENA correspondent in Tokyo, Sharshak praised the contacts King Hussein and President Mubarak made and their meetings with world leaders during their presence in Tokyo to take part in the funeral of Emperor Hirohito.

He aid the meeting of the two Arab leaders in Tokyo would soon come up with positive and tangible results.

The ambassador voiced appreciation for the creation of the ACC said there was no contradiction between the formation of the ACC and the Gulf Cooperation Council "because both serve Arab interests and enhance Arab strength."

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Iran serves Rushdie ultimatum on Britain

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran threatened Tuesday to break relations with London unless the British government denounced author Salman Rushdie, threatened with death for blasphemy against Islam.

At least 25 protesters were injured in a second day of anti-Rushdie violence in India, where Rushdie was born into a Muslim family.

In Islam's holiest city, Mecca, Islamic scholars rejected an apology from the 41-year-old author for offending Muslims with his award-winning book "The Satanic Verses."

Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who first ordered the writer's death two weeks ago, has already dismissed the apology.

The Iranian parliament voted overwhelmingly to cut ties with Britain for condemning Iran over the death order unless the government declared within a week

its opposition to the unprincipled stands against the world of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the contents of the anti-Islamic book "The Satanic Verses."

The Soviet Union might be willing to mediate to help resolve the furor over the book, a Soviet spokesman said Tuesday.

In the first official comment from Moscow, Genzady Gerasimov

said Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had discussed the row over Rushdie's

Sudan unions urge peace with rebels

KHARTOUM (Agencies) — Sudan's trade unions and political parties have urged embattled Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi to dissolve his coalition government and accept peace with southern rebels.

The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) reported Tuesday that the 37 parties and unions had also called for the formation of a broad-based government to include all political parties and trade unions.

Similar proposals for a new government were rejected earlier this week by the militant National Islamic Front (NIF), main partner with Mahdi's Umma party in the coalition.

The agency said the 37 groups

signed their statement Monday at the headquarters of the Democratic Unionist Party, which late last year negotiated a peace pact with rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The DUP quit Mahdi's government in protest when parliament rejected the pact.

The new demands were issued with the expiry of an ultimatum given Mahdi by his generals to introduce reform and ensure more support for the 60,000

strong army, which has suffered a string of defeats at the hands of SPLA.

The generals have given no public response to Mahdi's announcement in parliament Monday that he would resign Sunday unless he was given a free hand to form a new, broad-based government.

Mahdi, in office for nearly three years, also demanded assurances from the military that it would continue to respect the constitution and asked trade unions to stop strikes while the six-year-long war continued.

Defense sources said Tuesday senior army officers were meeting in the military headquarters in central Khartoum.

The army has yet to make a statement on a claim by the SPLA Monday that its guerrillas had captured the town of Torit.

The SPLA has been fighting in the south since 1983 to end what it seems as the rule of a minority clique in Khartoum.

Torit, near the Ugandan and Kenyan border, has been under rebel siege for several months, and reports from the area have consistently spoken of scores of its inhabitants starving to death every day.

It was the second large garrison town to fall into SPLA hands this year. Last month, the SPLA captured Nasir in upper Nile region near the Ethiopian border.

The SPLA said that Juba, south Sudan's largest town 135 kilometers northwest of Torit, was its next target.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in his sharpest public criticism of the Sudanese leader, told reporters in Cairo that Mahdi was trying to divert attention from his own problems and that he had squandered a chance for a peaceful settlement in the south.

Mubarak cited last November's peace pact between the SPLA and the DUP which Mahdi rejected with the help of his militant NIF allies in the coalition.

The DUP, which has a big pro-Egyptian faction, quit the government in December in protest.



Sadeq Al Mahdi

Arab diplomats said Mubarak's attack would increase pressure on the Sudanese leader to seek an end to the war.

Kuwait expects better approach from Bush

KUWAIT (AP) — Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said Monday he believes U.S. President George Bush will pursue policies that will show a better understanding of Arab views than Ronald Reagan.

"I share this opinion," said Sheikh Saad, who is also Kuwait's crown prince, when asked to comment on whether Bush's policies would take Arab opinions more into consideration than Reagan.

Sheikh Saad said he met Bush, then vice-president, during a visit to Washington last July, and "freely exchanged opinions on a variety of issues," including the Middle East problem and the Iran-Iraq war which was then raging.

"I found the man in possession of sufficient experience on all issues we discussed as well as the desire to find solutions to these problems," the premier told Egyptian newspaper editors in an interview broadcast by Kuwait television.

The editors were accompanying Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who made a two-day visit to Kuwait en route home from Tokyo, where he attended the funeral of Japanese Emperor



Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah

to more Arab strength and solidarity."

Sheikh Saad, whose country is the current chairman of the 46-member Organisation of Islamic Conference, warned Afghanistan's Mujahedin rebels fighters that divisions following the Soviet military withdrawal "might lead to a power struggle that allows foreigners the opportunity to intervene again in Afghanistan's internal affairs."

On oil prices, Sheikh Saad said that "the present and future" of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) depended on members sticking to production quotas aimed at boosting oil prices.

Sheikh Saad welcomed the recent founding of the Arab Cooperation Council, an economic alliance of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen, as "conducive

Iraq to hold first presidential election

BAGHDAD (R) — The government said Monday that Iraq would hold its first presidential election, but gave no date for the poll, the state-run television reported Monday.

It said the decision to hold a presidential election was originally made in 1980, but the war with Iran which broke out in September that year forced the government to postpone the poll.

Under Iraq's current constitution, the president and vice-president are elected by the ruling nine-member Revolutionary Command Council.

The network said discussions were under way to include a provision for regular presidential elections in a new constitution currently being drafted by a special government committee.

It is headed by the vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, Izzat Ibrahim.

The government said Sunday a referendum would be held to



Saddam Hussein

approve the proposed new constitution and a new parliamentary election law, allowing new parties to form.

General elections for the 255-member National Assembly, or parliament, are scheduled for April 1 after being delayed from last August.

The television gave no details about who took the decision to hold the presidential election or when it was made to implement the 1980 decision.

But it said President Saddam Hussein's office had notified a TV law programme on the issue in response to a letter from a citizen who asked "Why the presidency is a monopoly of the Baath Party?"

There has never been a presidential election in Iraq since the army took power in 1958.

The political developments came amid tentative moves by Hussein to liberalise Iraq, which has a population of 16 million, following the Aug. 20 ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war with Iran.

Iran serves Rushdie ultimatum to Britain

Continued from page 1

place, a Muslim wounded in protests there last Friday died, taking the official death toll from the police shooting to 11.

At least 20 people have died since the row over Rushdie's novel erupted.

Pakistan banned one issue of the Karachi-based Takbeer weekly for carrying extracts of "The Satanic Verses."

The government said Sunday a referendum would be held to

asked whether he believed Khomeini had the authority under Muslim faith to call for Rushdie's death, Sajjad said: "As Pakistanis we believe that Islam also gives you a right to a trial."

Sajjad, a former minister of justice and parliamentary affairs, added: "Our constitution says specifically that a person has to be tried before he can be punished."

"He is the man who bore the name Nazeeb," Slade told the

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773/11-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
17:15	Programme on plants
18:00	Out of World
18:00	Newspaper in Arabic
18:05	Court News Message
18:15	Arabic series
19:00	Local programme
19:30	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:40	Programme review
22:30	Wrestling
22:30	Varities programme
23:00	New summary in Arabic
23:10	Programme (contd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	Champs Elysees
19:00	News in French
19:15	Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Doc. "Springs in Jordan"
21:30	Life with Lucy
22:00	The Crowded Desert
22:20	News in English
22:20	El-Ni and Me

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will remain warm and a gradual

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Worship, Tel. 8107285
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637401.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Orthodox Church Tel. 622364
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625303.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Annam International Church Tel. 655326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. K1785.
Radiant Congregation Tel. K2605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ramzi Al Mazzawi
Dr. Salah A. Issoud
Dr. Orthman Mustafa
Dr. Zein Zaghloul
Firdous pharmacy
Al Asmaa pharmacy
Naimukh pharmacy
Al Salam pharmacy
Yacoub pharmacy
Shmeisani pharmacy

PRAYER TIMES

Fajr (Sunrise) Dhuha

Asr

Maghreb

Isha

Dhuhr

Magrib

Magrib

Isha

Dhuhr

Magrib

National News

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

ROYAL DECREE: A Royal Decree has been issued, endorsing the revised law on residence and foreigner affairs, whereby the residence fee for foreigners will be JD 15 per annum. The revised law imposed a monthly fine of JD 30 for each month of residence beyond the residence permit's duration. (Petra)

HOLIDAY ON MARCH 5: All government departments and public institutions will observe a holiday Sunday March 5, 1989 to mark Al Isra Wal Mi'raj feast, according to an official communiqué Tuesday. The event is normally marked by religious ceremonies in all the country's mosques organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. (Petra, J.T.)

PRINCE RA'AD IN IRBID: Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid, who is also the honorary president of the Friendship Society for the Blind, discussed with officials in Irbid Governorate the necessary steps for establishing a permanent centre and educational institution for the blind in Irbid Governorate, (Petra)

SOVIET ORTHOPAEDIST TO ARRIVE: The famous Soviet orthopaedist Ali Zarouf and his aide will arrive in Amman on March 21 on a several day official visit to Jordan in response to an invitation by the Ministry of Health. (Petra)

CHINESE MINISTER ARRIVES: Chinese Deputy Minister of Mining arrived in Amman Tuesday at the head of a Chinese delegation on a five-day visit to Jordan for talks with Jordanian officials on projects carried out by Chinese companies. The Chinese official will also visit Al Hassan Sports City in Irbid, which is financed through a loan from the Peoples Republic of China and carried out by a Chinese company. (Petra)

HMOUD MEETS WITH 3 ENVOYS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, and the Environment Marwan Al Hmooud Tuesday received in three separate meetings ambassadors of the United Arab Emirates, China and Italy and discussed with them scopes of cooperation in the fields of development and conservation of nature. (Petra)

NUMBERING AND NAMING STREETS: Greater Amman Municipality, in cooperation with the Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities will hold a seminar on the new methods for numbering and naming streets and areas, at the Royal Cultural Centre during the period from March 18 to 23. Taking part in the seminar will be 60 participants from Islamic capitals. (Petra)

HEARING AND SPEECH TEAM: A specialised hearing and speech team from Queen Alia Foundation for Hearing and Speech will visit Mu'tah Special Education Centre, where they will conduct hearing tests and will provide hearing aids to children suffering from hearing problems. (Petra)

ARAB CITIES DAY: Under the theme of "towards integrated municipal and social services," Greater Amman Municipality will celebrate the Arab Cities Day on March 15, along with other Arab capitals and cities. On the occasion, the municipality will carry out a number of cultural and social activities and will hoist the Jordanian flag, along with the Amman Municipality flag and that of the Arab Cities Organisation in the main streets and yards of Amman. (Petra)

ANALYSIS OF MARKET INFORMATION: A two-day international symposium on analysis of market information for housing purposes started in Amman Tuesday. The symposium, organised by the Housing Bank in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and a number of housing and finance institutions from Algeria and Tunisia, aims to train participants on analysis of market information to enable housing institutions and financiers to explore the feasibility of such housing projects. (Petra)

SYRIAN EDUCATION MINISTER TO ARRIVE: Syrian Minister of Higher Education Kamal Sharaf is due in Amman on March 11 at the head of a delegation to discuss cooperation in education. The minister and his delegation will be making the four-day visit at the invitation of Jordan's Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al Assad, according to an official announcement here Tuesday. The announcement said that higher education and cooperation between Jordanian and Syrian universities will be among the main topics to be discussed. Dr. Sharaf will be accompanied by the presidents of the Syrian universities of Aleppo, Damascus and Tishrin. (Petra)

MAJALI RECEIVES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS: Public Security Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Tuesday briefed students from the University of Jordan on the establishment and development of the Public Security system in Jordan, and made special reference to the new philosophy adopted by the PSD. (Petra)

Canadian trade team ends visit to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Canadian technology, trade and investment delegation wound up five-day visit to Jordan Tuesday by expressing hope that scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Canada will be extended and increased in all fields.

Samir Zalzal, who headed a team of Canadians representing the Ottawa-based Canada-Arab Business Council (CABC), said that he will embark on measures leading to the implementation of joint projects and industrial investments in the Kingdom as soon as he and his delegation have carried out the necessary arrangements with Canadian

businessmen and industrialists.

The delegation which also included a number of Canadian Foreign Ministry officials had met with Jordanian government officials and businessmen and discussed bilateral cooperation in industrial and economic fields.

CABC consists of over 50 prominent Canadian private sector firms and it is the largest trade association in Canada, directing efforts at the expansion of corporate interest in the Arab World. Zalzal told a press conference here last Sunday that his delegation predicted a prominent role for Jordan in Canadian-Arab trade relations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- * An exhibition of paintings by French artist Francoise Petrovitch at the French Cultural Centre.
- * The Polish contemporary art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition entitled "The Icebreaker" which includes showing a film about the activities of a Swedish icebreaker and the environment surrounding it, a photo exhibition and a radio programme at the French Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition on geology and development plans in Jordan which includes samples of rocks, minerals, fossils and raw material manufactured in Jordan, at the Yarmouk University.
- * An art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Al Toumalya at Al Qadisiya College.
- * The Iraqi children's exhibition which includes 100 paintings by Iraqi children and an exhibition of children's books at Zarqa Comprehensive School for Boys.
- * The Yemeni national heritage exhibition which includes Yemeni costumes, handicrafts, photos and books at the Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of photographs and paintings showing the main European cities in three historical eras, at the University of Jordan.
- * A photography exhibition entitled "Under Pure Skies" exhibiting 100 19th century photographs of the Middle East at Zarqa Community College.



Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa Tuesday holds talks with a visiting Taiwanese trade delegation in Amman (Petra photo)

Taiwanese express readiness to establish strong trade ties

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A Taiwanese trade investment delegation Tuesday expressed readiness to contribute to the implementation of a number of projects in the Kingdom in cooperation with the private and public sectors.

The head of the visiting delegation, who was speaking at a meeting with Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tabbaa, referred to the presence of a number of Taiwanese firms carrying out a number of plans in the country.

Taiwan, he said, "looks forward to establishing very strong economic and trade ties with Jordan in view of the Kingdom's investment possibilities, its economic policies and its central location within the Arab World."

The delegation leader said that his country was also willing to provide training to Jordanian personnel in the fields of industrial engineering, investment and technology.

For his part, Tabbaa welcomed the delegation's ideas and said Taiwan would be most welcome

to open an industrial fair in Amman with the purpose of promoting the sale of Taiwanese national products.

The minister discussed with the Taiwanese visitors, who represent a large number of major firms in Taiwan, prospects for economic and trade cooperation, increasing the volume of goods imported by Jordan and Taiwan from each other and increasing the Taiwanese firms' activities here especially in the textile industries.

It was decided at the meeting that a Jordanian economic delegation should pay a visit to Taiwan shortly to follow up talks on these matters and examine the prospects of opening new markets for Jordanian and Taiwanese national products in either country.

The two sides discussed the prospect of concluding a trade agreement, and the activities of the Taiwan trade Office in Amman and Jordan's Trade Office in Taipei.

Tabbaa briefed the visitors on



The Taiwanese trade delegation Tuesday visits the permanent industrial fair at the Amman Chamber of Industry (Petra photo)

Rabat meeting urges increased aid to Arabs under occupation

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting by the Arab Economic and Social Council held in Rabat called on the Arab states to increase their financial and in-kind assistance to the Arab people in the occupied territories and urged Arab countries to buy agricultural products from these territories, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf.

Saqqaaf, in a statement upon returning here from the Rabat meeting, said that the council urged Arab financial institutions to provide credit facilities and guarantees to help finance the exportation and marketing of Palestinian products in Arab markets, and to support the Palestine Liberation Organisation's efforts worldwide to find new markets for Palestinian products.

He said the council urged Arab states to help build a fishing port at Gaza and a cement factory in Hebron in the occupied territories.

The Jordanian delegation presented a working paper to the members outlining the economic and social situation in the Israeli-held Arab lands, Saqqaf noted.

The council, he said, expressed appreciation to the European Community nations for their support of Palestinian people's rights and for adopting plans to set up economic projects benefitting the Palestinian people.

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Three cheers for Thatcher

BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher struck a remarkably courageous note during her Paris press conference at the end of the Franco-British summit Monday, when she amplified the three principal conditions for the commencement of the peace process in the Middle East. By far the most notable of Mrs. Thatcher's triple sine qua non for starting the process of negotiations in the Middle East between the Arab parties and Israel is her call on the U.S. to be "firm" with Israel.

Mrs. Thatcher deserves to be commended for her outspokenness on the Israeli foot-dragging which clearly shows how much Britain is exasperated over the continued U.S. policy of playing second fiddle to Israeli leaders. Mrs. Thatcher is in the best position to talk straight to Washington as her credentials, as a strong ally of the U.S., are impeccable. This "enough is enough" message to Washington from London is not open for misinterpretations; it is as clear as words and intents can ever convey. To be sure, the implications and connotations of Mrs. Thatcher's heart to heart advice to Washington are obviously too clear and incisive to need elaborations.

In the same vein, President Francois Mitterrand has also expressed similar judgments on the peace process in the Middle East and the French leader's words hopefully would not fall on deaf ears in Tel Aviv and Washington. By calling on Israel to heed the new realities created by the PLO in the wake of the momentous decisions taken in Algiers last autumn, the British call on Washington to be firmer on Tel Aviv stands out as an act of unprecedented political and intellectual courage that could prove to be the very kind of political expression that would initiate the peace process in the Middle East on solid grounds. This is not to diminish the importance of the conditions prescribed by Mrs. Thatcher, namely, that the permanent member states of the U.N. Security Council should shoulder their responsibility for convening the projected international peace conference on the Middle East, and that the Palestinians should be engaged as well in the negotiations for the settlement of the Palestinian conflict. As the PLO is the internationally recognised representative of the Palestinian people, it would be the natural thing to have it attend the anticipated international conference and negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians the unique Palestinian dimension of the overall Arab-Israeli conflict.

Should Washington and Tel Aviv yield to the words of wisdom uttered by Margaret Thatcher, the ball of peace in the Middle East could really get rolling after all.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper Tuesday tackled Israel's apprehension of the prospect of reviving the eastern front following Iraq's great successes in the Gulf war and Syria's continued military buildup. The paper said that the Israelis expressed their apprehension through Dan Shamron, their army's chief of staff, who hinted that Israel could be forced to launch a pre-emptive strike against the Arab forces to avoid being subjected to a new war. Shamron considers such an attack as legitimate because it will be in self-defence, and thus he explicitly reflects the mentality of his Zionist leaders who continue to believe in force to settle disputes, the paper noted. The paper said that Shamron and other Israeli leaders believe that war against the Arabs would save them from further internal divisions and would help Israel to live in peace. Israel's declared apprehension of the Arab forces could indeed be a prelude to a new aggression which, if launched this time, it would be costly for Israel, the paper noted. It said that Israel, which is facing extreme isolation from the rest of the world, due to its aggressive policies, is bound to face worldwide condemnation and total boycott from the world community should it launch a new military adventure, the paper added. In the meantime it said the Arabs should take such threats seriously and must be ready for any eventualities.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily comments on South Yemen's bid to join the newly created Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups North Yemen, Iraq, Jordan and Egypt. Mahmood Al Rimawi says that South Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dali's statements published Monday give clear indication that Aden is seriously contemplating the idea of joining the new alliance, and is holding consultations to achieve that end. Rimawi notes that South Yemen and North Yemen are also taking steps for unity, and adds that if Aden's membership in the ACC is bound to help speed up unity between the two Yemens, then this membership should be welcomed not only by the Yemeni people but also by those of the four ACC countries. Rimawi says that the main aim of the Arab Cooperation Council which was proclaimed in Baghdad is to fulfil the aspirations of all Arabs for unity. He adds that the creation of a joint Jordanian-South Yemeni higher committee will no doubt help speed up this process.

Al Dustour daily tackles the current consultations between Arab leaders in the light of a visit to Baghdad Monday by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The paper said that a message delivered to the Iraqi president from His Majesty King Hussein explained the outcome of the monarch's contacts with world leaders attending the funeral of Emperor Hirohito in the past week. The paper said that the King's endeavours to serve his nation form a continuous process and are designed to open the way for a greater measure of close cooperation and joint action.

Sawt Al Shabab daily said that King Hussein is so keen on upholding the standards of the early Hashemite leaders who advocated Arab unity and freedom. The paper referred to the monarch's key role in pan-Arab action and the on-going efforts to rally Arab ranks and consolidate their ranks in the face of common challenges. The paper's comment was in the light of a visit to Baghdad Monday by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai who conveyed the King's message to the Iraqi president and discussed questions of concern to the two countries. It said that in view of the major challenges posed to the Arab Nation there is no alternative to continued consultations and rallying of ranks.

Fly me to the moon

By Riad Al Khouri

THE history of the world economy for the last few centuries has been one of unremitting expansion. This growth has taken several forms, including strong geographical movement: Italians in the late Middle Ages, the Dutch in the Renaissance and the British under Victoria all moved out of their European base to trade and invest. The process continued with the Americans and the Russians into the period after the World War II. The Soviet virgin lands' agricultural expansion of the 1950's and the U.S.'s Alaskan north slope oil are examples of literally how far the world economy now stretches. Of course there's still a lot of empty space to work in Siberia, Canada, etc., but the tentacles of the modern economy are now firmly in place almost throughout the world.

The two major exceptions are the seabed and Antarctica. Twentieth century technology is now capable of wringing wealth from even such places; there the battle is now joined, with the greedy capitalists, wishy-washy ecologists and feckless Third Worlders, among others, scrambling to preserve their "rights" or gain privileges. Elaborate agreements have been drawn up to prevent a free-for-all reminiscent of the carving up of 19th century Africa. The Antarctic Treaty in particular has kept conflict on ice. It includes disarmament provisions which preserve Antarctica exclusively for peaceful purposes, with a prohibition of military activities, nuclear explosions and disposal of nuclear waste.

The treaty also provides for freedom of scientific research in Antarctica and the exchange of plans for, and results of, such research. It also fosters the conservation of living resources and the protection of the unique Antarctic environment. Australia's

Governor General and former Foreign Minister Bill Hayden has described the treaty as "an effective international instrument for the regulation of states' activities in Antarctica in the interest of all Mankind."

Hayden has also talked about the amicable and cooperative atmosphere characteristic of the Antarctic Treaty system. Does all this sound too good to be true? Yes, absolutely. The South Pole is not the scene of violent clashes over natural resources, nor for that matter are conflicting claims over the seabed now causing major tension between states. But if recent history is anything to go by, big problems in these areas are only a matter of time. The North American giant as well as the near-giants of Europe and Japan, are struggling more ferociously than ever for economic spheres of influence; it's not difficult to imagine all sorts of trouble being caused by the rich power of the North in places like Antarctica. (For example, the Falklands conflict of 1982 had an element of seabed economics in it.) I hope I'm wrong, but the greed of the developed countries is bound to affect the whole globe, from the ozone layer to the bottom of the ocean. Is there a solution to this problem? Probably not, human nature being what it is.

A capacity for rapacity will keep the world in turmoil, with "developing" underdogs struggling against starvation and penury. The current accommodation between the U.S. and the Soviet Union will probably provide a breathing spell in this process. But in a few years, look out: the world after 1992's 12-nation

European mega-merger is going to be a fantastically competitive place, and the poor South is going to suffer even more. By the end of the millennium not even the ocean floor and Antarctica are going to be spared involvement in this process. And then? Yes you guessed it: the Moon. The science fiction of our parents has become immediate reality, and as the race on Earth for economic domination continues, the Moon and eventually the planets are bound to become objects of competition, peaceful or otherwise. And if the mess on earth gets even more out of hand, as it probably will, a brave new lunar world would no doubt be an ideal solution for Americans and others who want to get away from it all. Does this sound grotesquely fanciful? Maybe, but lots of scientific and other things happening today were literally unimaginable only a few years ago.

Take the Soviet Phobos mission: The recent conquest of a Martian Moon is going to be a modest prelude to spectacular interplanetary trips by the Russians and their friends. (And feminists will no doubt take comfort in the knowledge that women are much better at withstanding the harmful effects of long space flight). Meanwhile, back on Earth, the rich are getting richer in many cases at the expense of the poor. Does it make sense under these conditions to foray out into space? Whatever the answer, the twin phenomena of economic and scientific expansion are here to stay.

Riad Al Khouri is a Beirut-based economic consultant and businessman.

Red Cross brings crutches and voice of conscience to Kabul

By Oliver Wates
Reuter

KABUL — It takes more than the threat of a vicious civil war to drive the Red Cross out of Kabul, where it struggled for seven years to gain a foothold.

The Swiss-based organisation now provides top-class hospital treatment, crutches for the crippled, and above all a nagging voice of conscience for both the government and its rebel opponents.

"I tell you frankly that I don't know what the future will bring," said the Red Cross's dynamic chief delegate Jean-Jacques Fresard. "But the people of Afghanistan need us and we cannot stop any of our activities for too long."

Virtually all Western states, fearing for their diplomats' safety, closed their embassies before a final Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan on Feb. 15.

The International Committee of the Red Cross sent 23 non-operational staff to New Delhi. But 40 more stayed, most of them Swiss, by far the largest group of Westerners left in Kabul.

And after nearly two weeks of peace and quiet in the Afghan capital, the 23 are returning.

"We have a duty always to prepare for a worst-case scenario but it did not happen," Fresard said.

"Mines are a big problem but we also have gunshot wounds to the chest, explosions, rockets, frostbite, reconstruction surgery and so on. You have to have a really broad variety of skills to be a surgeon in a place like this."

said, referring to fears Kabul

would become a battleground as the Western-backed rebels tried to overthrow President Najibullah's government.

The Red Cross orthopaedic centre, closed on Feb. 8, reopens on March 1. It is desperately needed.

When it began fitting artificial legs and issuing crutches and wheelchairs just under a year ago, it drew 1,600 patients in three days. The waiting list stretches until 1991.

"We guess that there are already some 20,000 amputees in this country," Fresard said. "When the refugees come back from Pakistan and Iran, we know that there will be more, maybe hundreds, maybe thousands."

The comfortable Red Cross hospital in a converted private house has 50 beds but a new 100-bed ward is ready for when the 10-year-old civil war heats up again.

"We only take war-wounded, that is what we are here for," said nurse Esther Stebler, 31, from Basel in Switzerland.

"Mines are a big problem but we also have gunshot wounds to the chest, explosions, rockets, frostbite, reconstruction surgery and so on. You have to have a really broad variety of skills to be a surgeon in a place like this."

Some women patients are loath to take off the burqas, the head-to-toe veil worn by conservative Afghans. "Sometimes we have to cut holes in the burqas to treat a wound," Stebler said.

The Red Cross also distributes medicine to other hospitals and clinics in Kabul. But its main task, for which it was founded 125

years ago, is more political. One small boy was badly burned when a box of military flares, used to deflect rebel anti-aircraft missiles, exploded while he was playing with it.

There are nine expatriate nurses and two three-person surgical teams, one from Finland, the other from Britain.

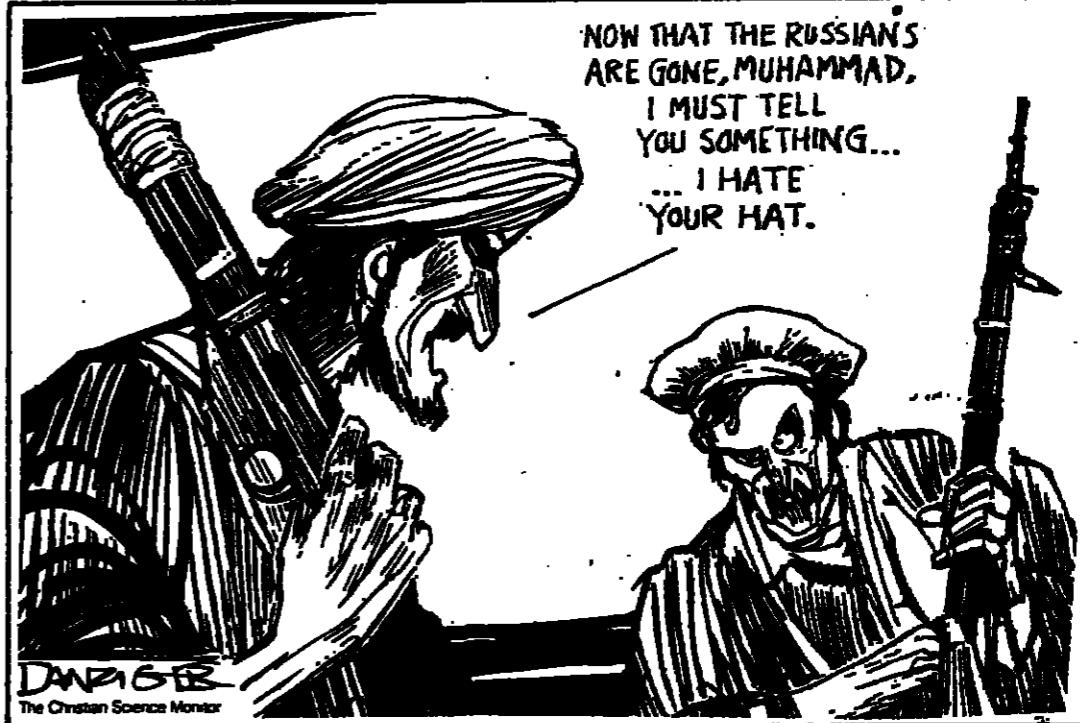
"We are exactly the number we need. Nobody can afford to get sick," Stebler said. Since it opened on Oct. 1 last year, the hospital has trained its own Afghan staff.

"We could not take away the few medical staff there are in Afghanistan," he said. "You are teaching all day long, explaining everything 200 times, it's very tiring. Some people hardly understand English and we have to turn them into good nurses."

Afghanistan is overwhelmingly Muslim, which brings its own problems. "You can't expect the local nurses to wash a man, we have to do that ourselves," Stebler says.

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The Red Cross also distributes medicine to other hospitals and clinics in Kabul. But its main task, for which it was founded 125



years ago, is more political. We are here to convince the parties to respect the conflict to respect international humanitarian law," Fresard said.

The Red Cross operates in a country only if its delegates, who are all Swiss, are allowed to visit all political prisoners regularly and in private.

"Both sides are playing the game, I am really amazed," he said. "It doesn't cost them anything politically, they are really giving us an easy time."

we coordinate policies.

While Ratcliffe's party addresses a wide range of issues Clark is solely interested in prisoners.

"Other political parties have a multitude of objectives and the welfare of the elderly gets lost. In their opinion the best thing the elderly can do is quickly crawl away and die," said Clark who is convinced his party will win a seat in Australia's most populous state in the next federal election.

Ratcliffe's party was almost still-born after Robert Clark, founder of another greypower party in New South Wales, opposed its application for registration as a political party.

The two still refuse to talk to each other, and despite strong Greypower support in South Australia and Queensland there are no plans for a national conference

observing battles at Palestinian camps in Lebanon, seemed almost surprised at the success of this side of the mission.

"We are sure that we have seen 90 per cent of sentenced political prisoners in Afghanistan," he said. "It's not just here, we also visit prisoners held by the Mujahideen (rebels) on the other side of the border."

"Both sides are playing the game, I am really amazed," he said. "It doesn't cost them anything politically, they are really giving us an easy time."

Fresard, hardened through

an important task re-establishing contact between prisoners and their families. Letters are delivered around the country and in refugee camps in Pakistan.

Behind the scenes, the Red Cross lobbies the government and rebels over any treatment of prisoners it considers breaches the Geneva conventions or other international humanitarian law.

"The idea is to leave some message behind you," Fresard said. "Actually there are all sorts of verses in the Koran which are very close to our principles."

A former Greypower official also said a Greypower meeting in Sydney town hall last year was infiltrated by racist groups who handed out anti-Asian and anti-Jewish literature.

Apart from pensioners' role as voters — 20 per cent of the 10.5 million electorate are retired — this could rise to 16 per cent.

The government has turned down pensioner calls for a national summit on the elderly but a prime ministerial task force set up last year is due to report soon on how to tackle the problems of aged.

Official estimates suggest that by 2005 about 12 per cent of the population will be over 65 and this could rise to 16 per cent.

The government has turned down pensioner calls for a national summit on the elderly but a prime ministerial task force set up last year is due to report soon on how to tackle the problems of aged.

Soon after Haine's jibe newspapers revealed Clark had been involved in campaigning in the 1970s to keep non-white immigrants out of Australia.

The petition says it was written in support of Fang, who wrote a letter to senior leader Deng Xiaoping last month calling for Fang's freedom.

Wei was the editor of an unofficial pro-democracy magazine in Peking. Tried in October, 1979, he was jailed for 15 years for counter-revolutionary crimes and is believed by dissidents to be in a Peking prison after spending several years in a labour camp in central China.

Fang said he had received no reply.

The letter said an amnesty in 1989 — the 40th anniversary of Communist China's founding and the 70th anniversary of the May 4th movement of patriotic intellectuals — would benefit China's reform and accord with a growing global respect for rights.

Is 600-ship U.S. navy a dream?

By Charles Aldinger
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The crunch in U.S. budget spending and shifting American defence priorities are combining to sink the navy's dream of a 600-ship fleet.

Despite a record \$2.5 trillion peacetime defence build-up under former President Ronald Reagan, the navy has not reached its 600-ship goal. Defence experts say, and Pentagon officials concede, that it may never be reached.

The goal certainly remains valid. But we are concentrating now on maintaining 15 carrier battle groups. They are the key (to surface power)," said commander Mark Baker, a navy spokesman.

Baker and other defence officials told Reuters, however, that expected budget cuts in 1990 and possibly beyond could mean that the number of battle groups that escort aircraft carriers may have to be reduced.

Before he left office in January, former Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci decided to order the early retirement of 16 older U.S. frigates to save money and manpower.

He told Congress in January that the move, along with fiscal

Features

Burmese town looks forward to revival of tourist trade

By Tom Heneghan
Reuter

PAGAN, Burma — The souvenir shop owner took the banknote in his hands, held it up to the light and then kissed the grimy paper three times.

"This is the first money I've earned since August," he declared. "It's like I've opened up a new shop."

Just down Pagan's main road, another shopkeeper excitedly dusted off lacquerware boxes, pink elephants, tin gongs and gongs of questionable quality.

"You are a good omen — first tourist for six months," he whispered. "We have been selling our gold to buy food. Now business will be back soon. Buy something, please."

Pagan, Burma's royal capital between 1057 and 1287 but now a dusty town surrounded by hundreds of crumbling Buddhist temples and pagodas, still feels the effects of anti-government protests that brought the country to a halt last summer.

Almost totally dependent on tourism, it suffered a body-blow when Rangoon decided in early August to stop all visits because of violent clashes between troops and marchers. Diplomats said 1,000 people were killed.

Although there was no unrest in Pagan, hotels and guest houses in this sleepy town on the Irrawaddy River in central Burma emptied. Nobody came to buy the town's distinctive black lacquerware or enjoy its fish curries and mustard-leaf soup.

Tour guides and drivers, accustomed to shuttling sightseers around the brick and stone ruins scattered over 40 square kilometres, waited without work.

Specks of gold

Some of Pagan's 5,000 residents became so desperate they dug holes in the fields and panned under the hot sun for specks of

gold left over from its glittering heyday.

A good day's panning among the temples, cactus trees and thorn bushes could yield up to a dollar's worth of gold flecks washed off gilded stupas or left from gold-threaded cloth the Burmese royalty used to wear,

residents said.

In normal times, they said, craft sellers could make over \$300 a month.

The army, which crushed the democracy movement last September, began readmitting foreign tourists in mid-December but the tight restrictions it imposed hardly made the visit a leisurely holiday.

The trail-blazing group of West German tourists were free to roam around the deserted temples and pagodas that, in English writer Somerset Maugham's words, "look huge" remote and mysterious, like the vague recollections of a fantastic dream."

Followed by plainclothes police and barred from leaving their bus to shop, the tourists were the ones who seemed remote and mysterious to the few people who saw them.

"They looked like prisoners," one resident commented.

Glancing repeatedly over his shoulder, a visitor to an annual temple fair said officials drove through the bamboo town before the tourists' arrival with loudspeakers telling residents not to talk to the rare visitors.

A group of 46 foreign correspondents brought from Bangkok on an unprecedented official tour in mid-January also passed through the town almost unnoticed except at the riverside Thiripyitsaya hotel where they stayed.

We want democracy'

"I didn't hear anything about them," said one shop owner with a look of lost opportunity.

To foreigners watching a gol-

den sunset across the Irrawaddy from Pagan's highest vantage point atop the steep Thatbyinnyu temple, "the fewer tourists, the better," may be a common reaction.

The shopkeepers have been

eagerly awaiting the day the packed tour buses will return.

Told more tourists should be coming now that the standard seven-day visas were available again, all they ask is: "When? How many? Where are they now?"

Life beyond the tobacco road

Tobacco use in the developing world will drain people's health and government treasuries unless immediate and thoughtful measures are taken. The highhanded tactics of the tobacco companies are seen behind the rise in smoking.

By Judith Mackay

HONG KONG — Tobacco kills approximately 2.5 million people each year. It is the largest single, preventable cause of death in the world today. But how many smokers would extinguish their

cigarettes in response to that statistic? Few if any.

Cancer, coronary heart disease, peripheral vascular disease, chronic bronchitis, emphysema — the list of diseases brought on by tobacco is long.

Contrary to popular opinion,

the greatest number of deaths from tobacco occurs not in old age, but in the prime of life. One quarter of smokers die prematurely. Thus tobacco comes under a unique risk category — far ahead of other consumer goods such as alcohol, sugar, cars or motor bikes. While most other consumer goods are dangerous when abused or misused, tobacco is simply dangerous when used as intended by the manufacturer.

The dangers of tobacco have long been accepted by all competent scientists; the only challenge to this medical consensus comes from the tobacco industry.

The major concern now is about mounting tobacco use in developing countries. While tobacco markets are decreasing in the West at the rate of one per cent a year, smoking is increasing in developing countries at an average of two per cent a year. For every smoker who quits in the United States or Europe, two people start smoking in a developing country.

Developing regions

The number of cigarettes smoked had outstripped population growth in all developing regions. Why? Because, a group of World Health Organisation experts commented recently, the transnational tobacco companies have launched "intensive and ruthless" promotional campaigns in these countries. The legislative

controls and other measures — which in industrialised countries succeed in limiting the use of tobacco — either do not exist or are at best inadequate, the experts found.

The experts predicted that smoking diseases "will appear in developing countries before communicable diseases and malnutrition have been controlled, and thus the gap between rich and poor countries will widen further."

Up to now, more than 50 per cent of men but only five per cent of women smoke in developing countries compared to about 30 per cent of both sexes in the industrialised world. The challenge in the Third World, therefore, is to maintain these low smoking rates among women while reducing the high smoking rates among men.

Few countries can afford the costs of smoking, less so the developing countries. Tobacco consumption drains not only the individual smoker's resources but also government funds. The benefits from transnational companies bringing their tobacco business to the Third World are questionable.

"Tobacco economics is sham economics," says Dr. Roberto Masiolini, the coordinator of the WHO Programme on Tobacco or Health. The price that countries have to pay for tobacco use usually far outweighs the "benefits" of tax collected. The costs include

medical and health costs; the expense of lost productivity; social welfare costs resulting from premature death and disability; fire losses; the loss of land that could have been used to grow food.

In Asia, most of the profits

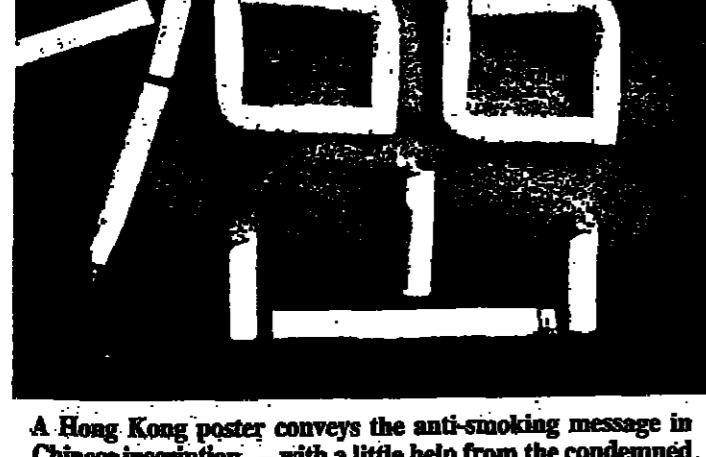
from the sale of tobacco by the transnational tobacco companies benefit neither the countries nor the people. Instead, the profits are returned to the boardrooms and shareholders of the industrial world. In Beijing recently, a senior health official likened this to "a new opium war."

Nowhere is the tobacco battle

being fought more vigorously than in Asia. World Tobacco, the industry's journal, recently reported "bright future ... for Asia Pacific" and promised traders "growth potential" and "more smokers" with emphasis on the potential Chinese market. In the same edition, the tobacco industry confidently predicted: "The most conservative estimation is that sales in Asia will increase by 18 per cent by the year 2000."

The tobacco industry operates with a different standard in developing countries. Cigarettes are sold in many countries without health warnings that would be compulsory in their country of origin. The tar content of cigarettes sold in Asia is higher than in industrialised countries. Promotional campaigns have especially targeted women.

— Academic File.



A Hong Kong poster conveys the anti-smoking message in Chinese inscription — with a little help from the condemned commodity.

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The French Revolution reenacted step by step

To relive a revolution

By Patrick Olivier

PARIS — Thanks to the very numerous programmes devoted, by television channels, to the French Revolution, on the occasion of its bicentenary, the French are going to be able to relive this capital event in their history, practically day by day.

It is natural for the French Revolution to be of the greatest interest in France, as everyone is aware that France owes her present Democratic system (which is not so widespread in the world) to it. This system efficiently protects people's fundamental rights, beginning with the right to freedom, the freedom to come and go, the freedom of thought and of expression, and the freedom to choose their governors. France is, indeed, one of those countries where it was decided, once and for all, that the governors were at the service of the people and not the opposite.

Birth of liberty

This birth of liberty was difficult and sometimes terrible. The French Revolution was the most eventful and the most fruitful period in French history, and television is getting ready to show all its aspects. Thrills are guaranteed in a vast panorama.

The greatest means have been brought together (the best authors, actors and directors have been working for months), and French viewers have already been able to watch the origins of Paris life at the time. There is also "Un Citoyen sans Importance," the story of a man who has to work in the prosecutions office and who attempts to save human lives.

There will also

Europe businessmen fear Rushdie affair will hinder trade with Iran

LONDON (R) — The storm over Salman Rushdie's "Satanic Verses" has raised questions over a scramble by European firms to do business with Iran almost before the ink is dry on their new contracts.

The European Community (EC), which has decided to withdraw heads of mission from Tehran in protest at Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death sentence on the British author, has stopped short of imposing formal trade sanctions against Iran.

But a tough political line by Britain and West Germany is already threatening to stall trade financing, needed if Iran is to rebuild after eight years of war with Iraq.

"The European Community wants to make a political point to Tehran," said Hans Helmut Kopietz, political analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

"It does not want to jeopardise trade relations but the row may well hit trade financing," he noted.

Some European companies had carefully maintained contacts dating back more than 10 years to the shah of Iran's era. Others had painstakingly forged new ties with the revolutionary regime.

Syria to raise oil production to 450,000 b/d by next year

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Syria is involved in oilfield development which could raise its total production to 450,000 barrels a day in 1990, an oil newsletter has reported.

The respected Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said that by next month, stepped-up production in new fields will bring Syrian production to 355,000 barrels a day.

Syrian production in 1988 was 270,000 barrels a day.

New fields being developed by the First Petroleum Co. and expected to be operating in 1990 could add 100,000 barrels a day to total production, the newsletter said.

Egypt to cut oil exports

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt decided Tuesday to increase its crude oil-export prices for the first half of March by 15 cents a barrel for all grades, a senior oil ministry official said.

Hamoud Ayoub, the ministry's foreign sales director, said Egypt also has decided to decrease oil exports by five per cent under an agreement by non-OPEC producers in a meeting in London on Feb. 21.

He did not say exactly how much that would amount to, but the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), published in Nicosia, reported Monday that Egypt's cut amounts to 24,000 barrels a day.

The new price for a barrel of Egypt's top-grade Gulf of Suez blend is \$14.90, for Belayim \$14.05, for Ras Badran \$12.90 and for Ras Ghareb \$12.60.

Greeks press demands amid piles of refuse and unburied dead

ATHENS (R) — Greek unions vowed Tuesday to maintain strikes threatening to disrupt the tourist industry, with travellers to Greece facing cancelled flights and mountains of refuse on the streets when they finally arrive.

Strikes by air traffic controllers and municipal garbage collectors, in support of pay rises above inflation, are part of a wave of recent stoppages affecting doctors, hospital staff, bank and railway employees, teachers and industrial workers.

The refuse is piling up in Athens and elsewhere, lining the streets and the squares full of planning cafés and blocking thoroughfares. Residents have to pick their way through rubbish to get into shops and apartment blocks.

Special teams at the health and public order ministries met all day to seek ways of dealing with the growing health hazard and nuisance.

Gravediggers have also gone on strike, causing delays of up to two days in burying the dead. Security personnel have been called in to dig graves in some areas.

Union leaders said Tuesday they would continue strikes until their demands were met.

A spokesman for the Confederation of Greek Industry, which groups 70 labour federations, said: "We intend to press on until our goals are met."

Kostas Skouras, general secretary of the National Tourist Organisation, said: "The good image of the city for residents and tourists alike is certainly being spoiled by the garbage."

Hotels and restaurants catering for tourists were trying to ease the discomfort of visitors, he said. Refuse collectors have prolonged their week-old strike until

West German exports to Iran have been frozen.

West German business, hoping for lucrative power generation projects, has protested and the conservative daily Die Welt said in an editorial: "The federal government should not allow itself to be pushed into economic sanctions."

Frustration among businessmen in West Germany and Britain has grown as it becomes clear that some EC nations are reluctant to jeopardise their companies' business contracts.

Italy, Iran's third largest trading partner, has been keen to cash in on reconstruction and in January resolved a long-standing dispute over payment for port facilities at the Gulf of Bandar Abbas.

Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggiero said then that Italian firms were negotiating deals worth around \$3 billion and the two nations signed a trade protocol.

"The accords signed last month are valid and we plan on adhering to them," a ministry spokesman said Friday.

In France, a finance ministry official said there were no plans

to slow improving commercial relations with Iran after diplomatic ties were restored in June 1988.

Contracts on oil, cars and railway equipment were signed during a visit to Tehran earlier this month by Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, the first by a French minister since the Islamic revolution 10 years ago.

In Belgium, a group of chemical companies recently returned from Tehran convinced of the market's potential.

Other Community nations have kept a low profile.

Portugal, with a light arms industry that supplied both Iran and Iraq during the war, has refrained from making any public comment.

Iran's need for foreign currency to pay an annual import bill of \$4 to \$5 billion for essential, non-military goods has led to a flurry of activity at European banks which had not lent it long-term funds since the shah's fall.

Officials from Iran's banks had considerable success in sounding out British, French and West German banks. But bankers say many potential credit lines are now on hold.

France and Belgium have offered inducements to try to lure the international sugar and wheat organisations away from London to set up their headquarters in Paris or Brussels.

Jean Parrotte, head of the International Wheat Council, said French and Belgian government officials had made attractive offers which would have to be looked at very carefully.

The wheat council, which groups 48 wheat producing and consuming nations, and the International Sugar Organisation, which has 56 member countries, are looking for a new headquarters when the lease on their premises in London runs out at the end of this year.

Soaring commercial rents in London mean they could face a three-fold increase in rent for

their building.

The British government has so far refused to offer a subsidy so they will probably be forced to move after the end of 1989, officials from the two organisations said.

France is offering rent-free accommodation in Paris for five years, while Belgium is promising low, stable rent, with an element of subsidy.

London is also host to international coffee and cocoa organisations, which have just negotiated new leases on their joint headquarters to March 1991.

There is resistance to the wheat and sugar organisations leaving London while the cocoa and coffee organisations remain, because some member countries, like Brazil and Cuba, have the same people covering all four, officials said.

Drug money bust casts shadow over Los Angeles jewel market

LOS ANGELES (R) — The Los Angeles jewellery market, a bustling district in the heart of the city, concealed the most extensive drug money laundering enterprise ever uncovered in the United States, federal prosecutors say.

The jewellery market, housed in a string of dingy buildings, is the country's second largest with an estimated annual turnover of \$1 billion.

But authorities believe that some retail booths and wholesale offices were also busy helping

Latin American drug traffickers launder at least \$1 billion in proceeds from cocaine sales.

More than 20 employees of nine downtown jewellery businesses were arrested at the market last week as federal agents concluded a year-long nationwide investigation.

In all, 35 people — many of them Lebanese and Syrian nationals — were charged with conspiracy to sell and possess cocaine and to defraud the Internal Revenue Service. They face sentences of 10 years to life in prison if convicted.

What we have in essence is an organised crime case here," assistant U.S. attorney Russell Hayman said. "We have extended businesses using their power, resources and legitimacy to conceal very dangerous activities.

After a dozen years of rapid growth, the Los Angeles jewellery district is second only to New York in annual sales. But many merchants fear the drug money bust will hurt business.

"It's a disaster," said one merchant. "People are not going to come downtown any more."

Court papers depict a criminal enterprise as elaborate as many of the jewels sold in the market. Suspects allegedly used armoured trucks and automated cash counting machines.

Federal agents were tipped off to the enterprise early last year by an informant in New York and employees of Wells Fargo Bank in Los Angeles who told them that one firm had deposited \$25 million in a three-month period.

Investigators mounted a massive electronic surveillance operation of the jewellery stores. A video tape shown at a bail hearing for one defendant showed her working on stacks of cash one metre high.

According to the documents, two downtown businesses run by defendants Nazareth Andonian and Wamis Koyoumjian were the linchpin of the enterprise.

Drug traffickers allegedly shipped their proceeds to the two firms by armoured truck from Los Angeles, New York and Houston. Employees, often using the automated machines, would then count up and package the cash.

"They were counting money from dawn until dusk," Hayman said.

After the funds were deposited in various Los Angeles banks, they were wired to accounts in New York, Panama City and Montevideo, Uruguay, and then delivered to international drug traffickers in Colombia, prosecutors say.

Anglo-Dutch Unilever hikes '88 profits by 10%

LONDON (R) — Anglo-Dutch PLC-N.V. said Tuesday its pre-tax profits rose 10 per cent in 1988 to £1.45 billion (\$2.52 billion).

The group, whose products range from detergents to frozen foods, is one of the world's top consumer concerns. Its sales totalled £17.12 billion (\$29.7 billion) in 1988 against £16.55 billion (\$28.80 billion) the year before.

"1988 was another year of substantial progress throughout our business, reflecting our emphasis on profitable growth," Unilever Chairman Michael Angus said.

Unilever said internal growth remained its priority, though it

noted acquisitions during 1988 totalled \$630 million.

A number of strategic areas had been targeted for investment, including the skin care and fragrances markets.

The purchase from the Riklis Family Corp. of the United States would add Faberge, Brut, Aquanet, Elizabeth Arden and the prestigious Chloe and Lagerfeld perfumes to Unilever's range of brands and would pit it against L'Oréal of France for the number one position in the global personal care products market.

Air Afrique orders curbs on competitors

ABIDJAN (R) — Africa's multinational airline, Air Afrique, has told its competitors to cut back flights and limit passenger loads, an Air Afrique spokesman has said.

A letter containing the order has been sent to all competing airlines operating in West and Central Africa by the 10 governments that jointly own Air Afrique, the spokesman said.

The decision was taken at Ivory Coast's inland capital Yamoussoukro to reduce the number of flights by other companies, he added.

The 5.3 per cent rise in the GNP deflator followed an increase of 4.7 per cent in the third quarter.

An alternative inflation gauge, the GNP fixed weights price index, rose at a 4.2 per cent rate between October and December, down from 5.3 per cent in the third quarter but up from the preliminary estimate of 4.0 per cent.

The inflation figures underscored the challenge facing Federal Reserve (Fed) Board Chairman Alan Greenspan, who has tightened credit aggressively in recent weeks in an attempt to put a lid on mounting price pressures in the economy.

Last Friday the Fed underlined its determination to curb inflation by raising its discount rate, the interest it charges on loans to commercial banks, from 6.5 per cent to 7.0 per cent, its highest in almost three years.

In doing so, Greenspan ran the risk of upsetting President Bush who maintains that inflation is not a serious problem and that he is unhappy with rising interest rates.

For all of 1988 the economy grew at a brisk 3.8 per cent rate after inflation compared with 3.4 per cent in 1987.

The 2.0 per cent fourth-quarter growth rate, lower than Wall Street forecasts of 2.5 per cent, was the slowest since the final quarter of 1986 when GNP rose by 1.4 per cent.

If the figures had not been affected by the early-summer drought, which led to losses in crop and livestock output, the growth rate last quarter would have been about 3.1 per cent.

The increase underlined Greenspan's assessment last week that economic expansion, now in its seventh year which is a peacetime record, remains vigorous and unusually well-balanced.

The figures were adjusted to remove the effects of inflation and seasonal factors.

Wealth tax in Iran becomes controversy

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian proposals for a one-off wealth tax on millionaires which could raise \$14 billion are in limbo after objections by senior clergymen and lawyers. Tehran radio has reported.

It said the Guardian Council, composed of 12 Muslim theologians and lawyers who vet parliament's decisions, objected to the tax approved by parliament.

Iranian said the aim of the tax was to channel resources from unproductive holdings to industrial and agricultural investment.

According to the bill passed in parliament, a progressive tax of up to 40 per cent would be imposed on anyone who with his dependents owned assets of more than 100 million riyals (\$14 million) on Sept. 23 last year.

Assets which would be assessed under the bill include pistachio and palm groves, fruit orchards and late-model cars. Cash holdings are exempted.

Iranian said about five people in every 1,000 would be affected by the tax.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Finance Minister Mohammad Javad Iravani as saying Iran expected to raise one trillion riyals (\$14 billion) from the "national cooperation tax for reconstruction."

He said the government was counting on the revenue for its budget in the next Iranian year beginning March 21.

"If it does not materialise, the budget deficit will increase by the same amount," the radio quoted him as saying.

The confidential report said the economy, one of the world's poorest, would grow only 1.2 per cent in the fiscal year 1989/90 which started in July.

The government expects more than two per cent growth.

"The disruptions caused by the floods (in 1988) and cyclone, to a lesser extent, will seriously affect economic growth again this year," the bank said.

"Although the government is making special efforts to assist the poor, the living standards of

Report sees deteriorating conditions in Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh will be even poorer next year as economic growth slows due to flooding and a worsening trade balance, a World Bank report says.

The confidential report said the economy, one of the world's poorest, would grow only 1.2 per cent in the fiscal year 1989/90 which started in July.

Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) measuring the total value of goods and services grew by two per cent in 1987/88, according to government figures.

The bank said food production would be three per cent below last year's level while jute, livestock, forestry and fisheries had also been affected by the floods.

The majority of the people in Bangladesh who are already quite poor, are likely to fall again this year," the report said.

A finance ministry official commented the economy might not be "as bad as the World Bank is predicting. We expect it to rebound, given a good natural and political climate."

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1989

NBA Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Here's a roundup of National Basketball Association games Monday night:

Bullets 104, Rockets 98

HOUSTON — Bernard King scored 34 points, including eight straight in a 17-4 Washington run late in the game, lifting the Bullets past Houston 104-98, the Rocket's fifth consecutive loss.

Playing in place of the injured Jeff Malone, Rookie Ledell Eackles added 25 points, including 11 in the fourth period, to help the Bullets to their fourth win in their last five games.

Warriors 141, Nuggets 132

OAKLAND, California — Chris Mullin led seven Golden State players in double figures with 30 points and the Warriors raced to their 11th straight home victory with a 141-132 decision over the Denver Nuggets.

The Warriors led by 23 points with 23 seconds left in the third quarter, but Denver rallied behind the scoring of Alex English to close the gap to 129-128 on a pair of free throws by Dan Schayes with 3:00 remaining.

Hawks 105, Mavericks 83

ATLANTA — Moses Malone scored eight points and Dominique Wilkins six during a decisive 23-11 run in the second quarter, and Atlanta went on to defeat the Dallas Mavericks 105-83, the Hawks' seventh victory in eight games.

Malone led the scoring with 20 points and Malone added 18 for the Hawks.

Bucks 105, Spurs 96

MILWAUKEE — Ricky Pierce scored 11 fourth-quarter points as the Milwaukee Bucks squandered a 24-point lead and then rallied with two 10-0 runs to beat San Antonio 105-96, sending the Spurs to a club-record 11th straight loss.

San Antonio trailed 70-46 with 9:44 to go in the third quarter, but behind the play of guard Michael Anderson, the Spurs exchanged for Joe Kleine and Ed Pinckney.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THANKS FOR THE HELP

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

* 6
K 7 2
Q 10 9 7 3 2

* A 4

WEST EAST

K-Q J 3 * 8 7 5 2

Q J 10 5 Q 8 6 4

Q 8 5 Q 0

* Q 8 7 6 * 9 3

SOUTH

* A 10 9

V A 9 3

Q A 7 6 4

* 10 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 0 Pass 3 0 Pass

3 NT Pass 5 0 Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of 4

Position at the table can be a crucial factor. Whether you are first or second to play a trick will often determine how many tricks you can take from a given combination of cards.

We are not enamored of North's

decision to remove three no trumps to five diamonds, despite his balanced hand. His six-card diamond suit was a source of tricks at no

trump, and the 11-trick contract would have failed but for skillful play by his partner.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand. If he picked up the trumps without loss, declarer's only problem was to avoid losing two club tricks in addition to the heart. If he broached the suit, he could accomplish that only by finding a rather fortuitous lie of the cards and guessing the position. But there was a sure-trick line.

Declarer ruffed a spade and drew trumps in two rounds. After ruffing his remaining spade, he cashed the ace and king of hearts before surrendering the lead with a third round of hearts.

It made no difference to declarer which defender won the heart trick. With the major suits stripped from his hand and dummy, whichever defender gained the lead could not play one of those suits without yielding the game-going trick via a ruff-stuff. Yet, when either defender broached the club suit, declarer was guaranteed two tricks, because he possessed the ten. Best would be for West to win the heart and shift to a club, but declarer has only to play low from dummy to endplay East when he wins the club. Try it.

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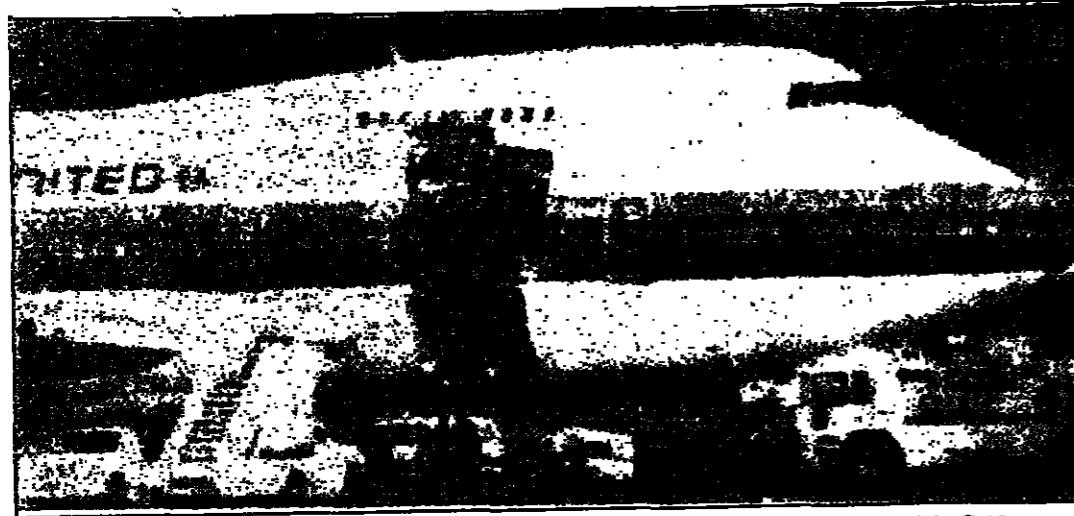
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The United Airlines Jumbo jet rests on a runway at Honolulu airport after it lost a cargo flight Friday.

Midair blast 747 had power-snagged door

HONOLULU (R) — The Boeing 747 cargo door that blew open over the Pacific, sucking nine people to their deaths, had an electrical fault in December and trouble with a door seal in January, federal investigators said.

The nine were among 354 people aboard United Airlines Flight 811 when the hole opened up in the passenger cabin 6,700 metres above the Pacific Ocean last Friday. The jetliner, on a flight to New Zealand, returned to Honolulu.

National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigator Lee Dickinson told a news conference Monday night that the 19-year-old jumbo jet's maintenance records had revealed the two previous faults with the forward cargo door.

Dickinson would not elaborate on the significance of the finding but federal investigators said Sunday they were looking at the possibility the right forward cargo-hold door opened in flight, ripping out a section of the fuselage.

In Sydney, a United Airlines 747 bound for Honolulu was delayed for 18 hours over Monday night with cargo door problems.

United Airlines spokesman Sean McNamara said inspectors in Sydney had found a faulty pin in a rear cargo door of the 747-100 jet, the same class as the one in Friday's incident.

The Boeing company, meanwhile, has advised airlines to test the locking system on all 747 cargo doors, a spokesman for the aircraft builder in Seattle said Monday. David Jimenez said the advisory "was nothing more than a prudent action."

The New York Times reported that the U.S. airline industry would issue a report Tuesday



Investigators pore over the wreckage as United Airlines employees unload baggage from the Boeing 747 jet.

calling for the most sweeping repair programme on ageing airliners in commercial aviation, involving as many as 1,000 commercial jets and costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Air Transport Association has been working since last summer on the report to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Bush passes Asia test with flying colours

TOKYO (AP) — With few exceptions, officials and newspapermen in the Far East rated U.S. President George Bush's fast-paced visit to the region a success in showing the importance his new administration puts on relations with Asian countries.

Bush returned to Washington Monday night after a five-day swing to Japan, China and South Korea, his first overseas trip as president.

Commentators in Asia remarked that it was the first time a new president has visited Asia before Europe, and said the trip was extraordinary in coming so early in Bush's tenure.

The official Xinhua news agency in China called it an "unusual diplomatic initiative" and said, "China looks large in Bush's foreign policy. Over the years, he has attached importance to China's role in world affairs and cared for the expansion of U.S.-China relations."

In Tokyo, Bush met leaders of 20 foreign countries in the swirl of "funeral diplomacy" among dignitaries paying respects to the late Emperor Hirohito.

His stop in Seoul let him reassess the U.S. determination to maintain its troop strength in



George Bush

said Bush had been ill-advised to invite Fang. "It was a rash and provocative gesture," its editorial said.

"China, in turn, overreacted foolishly by physically ensuring that the outspoken activist was not able to attend," it said.

Communist Party Secretary General Zhao Ziyang said, "The fact that some Americans support those Chinese who are not satisfied with the Chinese government will be detrimental not only to China's political stability and the progress of its reforms but also to the Sino-U.S. friendship."

The conservative Hong Kong daily, *South China Morning Post*,

said Bush's talk covered hot spots like the Korean peninsula and Kampuchea as well as the softer issues of trade imbalances and human rights, with a notable flap in Peking when Chinese police prevented dissident Fang Lihui from attending a banquet to which Bush had invited him.

The Chinese, while saying Bush's visit would enhance Sino-U.S. friendship, were angry at what they saw as U.S. interference in their affair.

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fact that some Americans support those Chinese who are not satisfied with the Chinese government will be detrimental not only to China's political stability and the progress of its reforms but also to the Sino-U.S. friendship."

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Mountain village chefs tickle palates worldwide

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

VILLA SANTA MARIA, Italy — Each year, an elite band of newly-trained chefs sets out from a village deep in the Apennine mountains to tickle palates around the world.

They are graduates of the state cookery school of Villa Santa Maria, a village of 1,800 people that has been producing outstanding chefs for four centuries.

Ten per cent of the 120 members of the "Collegium Coquorum" — the honoured club of Italy's foremost living chefs — are from Villa Santa Maria, a village that clings to a rock face in the harsh, isolated Abruzzi region of central Italy.

Some 40 per cent of the village's total male working population are chefs or waiters — almost all working elsewhere and many of them cook-

ing for or serving at the tables of the rich, royal and powerful at homes and hotels in Italy and beyond.

Many village families are culinary dynasties with names renowned throughout the profession.

The late Emperor Hirohito of Japan had a chef from Villa Santa Maria, in common with the Swedish royal house, American cartoon king Walton Disney and Giovanni Agnelli, head of Italy's giant Fiat motor company.

Domenico "pace" Stanziani, 70, doyen of Villa Santa Maria's chefs, prepared gastronomic delights for Italy's last two reigning kings and can trace a chef in his family back to 1789.

He boasts a 60-year career that began in the kitchens of a princess and is now head chef at Villa Santa Maria's school, where 300 boys from as young

EC backs Central American peace plan, pledges more aid

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras (R) — European Community (EC) ministers meeting with their Central American counterparts have backed a regional peace plan and said the EC intends to increase aid to the five governments.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez said at the start of the two-day meeting Monday there would be "substantial progress in the aid of the 12 (EC states) to this region" if economic forecasts hold true.

Fernandez, spokesman for the EC Council of Ministers, also spoke out in support of the plan to end civil wars in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, but said: "It is not enough to arrive at accords, it is necessary to comply with them."

A draft final declaration supports an accord in El Salvador this month by Central American presidents, who agreed to draw up a plan by mid-May to disband the U.S.-backed rebel army camped in Honduras in return for democratic reforms in Nicaragua.

The document says EC aid will be given "without exclusions" to help economic development in all

five nations.

The aid pledge was criticised by the contras, who have been fighting a U.S.-backed war against the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Wilfred Montalvan, one of seven contra rebel leaders, arrived Monday to urge the EC to withhold aid to Nicaragua until Managua kept promises of democracy.

Otherwise, he said, the Sandinistas would "consolidate a totalitarian regime, violating human rights and damaging to legitimate interests... of neighbouring countries," he told Reuters.

U.S. sceptical

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle said in Washington at the weekend he believed Nicaragua would violate the El Salvador accord.

Quayle said the Nicaraguan

government was Marxist-Leninist and did not intend to surrender power despite President Daniel Ortega's promises, made at the El Salvador summit, of democracy and free elections by Feb. 25, 1990.

Honduran President Jose Azcuna said in an opening address there was now a transition from armed struggle to peaceful struggle in the Central America.

"We are not going to give up our guns until there is democracy in Nicaragua," he added.

The EC is due to back a Central American request for 150 million European Currency Units (ECUs) (\$172 million) to help revive trade in the region, depressed by wars in which 100,000 have died, but without firmly committing the cash.

Fernandez said 1988 aid was 112 million ECUs (\$130 million). Bilateral aid from the 12 nations exceeded \$350 million.

The 12 nations will also agree to study a request for a \$200 million fund to help the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.

EC aid in Central America is small compared with U.S. support of El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala or Soviet aid to Nicaragua.

Managua lashes out

Nicaragua lashed out at the United States and Britain Monday for remarks made by officials from both countries attending the conference.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and Ricardo Wheelock, head of Sandinista intelligence, responded angrily to comments made to reporters earlier by U.S. ambassador to Honduras Everett Briggs and British ambassador Timothy Eggar.

Briggs, from Nicaragua, joked to reporters that a Honduran friend had described the Central American government as "five brothers, the problem is that one of them does not bathe."

D'Escoto retorted that "not only does he (Briggs) never bathe, but neither does he wash his mouth before speaking. For that reason we have the dirty war."

COLUMN

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Twin hippos get christened

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Twin hippos were christened "Splash" and "Splash" at a weekend party at the Memphis Zoo with 18 other sets of twins — of the two-legged variety. The names were picked by actress Cybill Shepherd, a Memphis native and mother of twins herself, from more than 2,300 suggestions entered in a contest. The 36.3-kilogram babies were born two months ago, but their gender has not yet been determined because their mother, Julie, will not let zookeepers close enough to her offspring. Julie was not forgotten on her babies' big day. She was given a certificate of membership in the Royal Order of Mothers of Twins from Ellen Patrick, president of the Mothers of Twins "plus" Club. The excitement ended when Julie nudged her babies into their pool for an underwater feeding. The father, Ubie, remained submerged in an adjoining pool through the entire ceremony.

Cheap dinner attracts thousands

TOKYO (AP) — Thousands of people jammed a restaurant in Tokyo that sold \$15 steak dinners for 55 yen, or \$0.42 to celebrate its 55th anniversary. Lines began forming outside the Suehiro Restaurant in the Ginza shopping district three hours before the steak house opened late Sunday morning. Three hours before the 10 p.m. closing time, 8,000 people had enjoyed a steak dinner, and the total was expected to reach more than 30,000 before the three-day offer ended Tuesday.

Speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, he added: "They are being done to give the Indian occupying forces and the Sri Lankan army and police a right to kill Tamils living in eastern province, a part of the Tamil homeland."

A former Tamil rebel leader from a rival group claimed the Tigers were on "a headline-hunting exercise."

35 killed in Sri Lankan village massacre

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Tamil guerrillas shot and hacked to death 35 civilians of Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese community in an attack on a village Monday night, military sources said.

Guerillas armed with guns,

swords and knives stormed Borawewa in the north-central province, the sources said, adding they suspected the rebels belonged to the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Five people were injured.

Four people were killed Monday in the south where left-wing Sinhalese rebels are fighting to overthrow the government, police said.

The LTTE has rejected a peace-accord signed by Sri Lanka and India aimed at ending the Tamil revolt and is continuing an armed campaign to set up an independent homeland.

The Tigers group is fighting for an independent homeland in northern and eastern areas of the island's north and east claimed by the Tamils.

About 45,000 Indian troops have been deployed in the two regions under the accord to disarm the Tigers.

Policemen said the Tigers have a training camp near the village.

On Feb. 11, 36 Sinhalese were shot and stabbed to death in Duttawewa. On Feb. 22, seven Sinhalese were killed at Sinhabur.

The Tigers' information office in London denied the first two attacks were the work of their people.

A Tiger leader who denied his men were behind the Borawewa killings said: "These killings are being done by disarmed groups who want to discredit our just struggle on behalf of the Tamil people."

Speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, he added: "They are being done to give the Indian occupying forces and the Sri Lankan army and police a right to kill Tamils living in eastern province, a part of the Tamil homeland."

A former Tamil rebel leader from a rival group claimed the Tigers were on "a headline-hunting exercise."

Serbs march as troops patrol Kosovo

BELGRADE (R) — Thousands of chanting Serbian demonstrators marched on the Yugoslav parliament building after striking ethnic Albanian miners in Kosovo forced the resignations of three pro-Serbian politicians in the province.

Troops and tanks were deployed throughout Kosovo early Tuesday as the miners ended an eight-day underground sit-in.

A Reuter correspondent in Kosovo, one of two autonomous provinces within Serbia, said tanks and trucks carrying troops were on the move on all major roads in the province throughout Monday night.

Protesters chanting "Kosovo is Serbia" poured into Belgrade's Marx and Engels Square to mass in front of parliament. They carried Yugoslav, Serbian and Communist Party flags and demanded that Yugoslav state President Raif Dzidzarevic and party chief Stipe Suvor address them.

Scores of flag-draped taxis, their horns blaring, drove in columns through the city.

The miners at the Mitrovica zinc mine, 180 kilometres south of Belgrade, sparked off a general strike in Kosovo against plans to increase Serbian control over the province which borders Albania.

Although they ended their strike Monday night, turmoil persisted in the province and Yugoslavia.

The miners won the resignation of three pro-Serbian politicians in the province.

Regional rows have reached boiling point in Yugoslavia with the northern republics of Slovenia and Croatia accusing Serbian Communist Party leader Slobodan Milosevic of trying to create a centralistic, Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

The miners won the resignation of three pro-Serbian politicians in the province.

Thousands of Serbs have fled Kosovo since ethnic Albanian riots in 1981, alleging persecution by the Albanians who outnumber the Serbs and Montenegrins by 1.7 million to only 200,000.

The resignations were a major blow to Milosevic who had backed Azemini and Morina.

The Belgrade demonstrators opposed the resignations, saying the three men were forced to resign because they had cracked down on Albanian nationalism.

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